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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11222 210140Z
ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: SPEECH BY NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN REGARDING WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UN NEWS RELEASE WHICH QUOTES FROM SPEECH GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR LESLIE HARRIMAN ON WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM:

QUOTE: THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, TO BE HELD IN GENEVA FROM 14 TO 25 AUGUST, "MUST BECOME A DECISIVE TURNING POINT IN THE STRUGGLE TO ERADICATE APARTHEID AND RACISM", IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LESLIE O. HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) WHO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERN-MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA DURING THE PAST WEEK, SAID THE COMMITTEE "LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING WORLD CONFERENCE AS THE FORUM FOR FORMULATING PROGRAMMES FOR DETERMINED AND DECISIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WHICH ARE THE GREATEST THREATS TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION".
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11222 210140Z

HE SAID THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS THE "CRUCIAL BATTLE" IN OBTAINING TOTAL EMANCIPATION OF AFRICA AND ABOLITION OF RECIAL DISCRIMINATION EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE TASK BEFORE THE WORLD CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO BRING ABOUT A NEW ERA OF CIVILIZATION, "AND IT CANNOT BE A ROUTINE GATHERING," MR. HARRIMAN DECLARED.

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"WHAT IS AT STAKE IS THE EMANCIPATION OF AFRICA AND THE RESTORATION OF THE HUMAN DIGNITY OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AFTER MANY CENTURIES OF MASSACRES, PLUNDER AND HUMILIATION WHICH HAVE BEEN A BLOT ON HUMAN CONSCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION", HE SAID.

SOME FORCES, MR. HARRIMAN SAID, ARE "ATTEMPTING TO FRUSTRATE THE EFFECTIVE OBSERVANCE" OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THE SUCCESS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE BY USING EXTRANEOUS ISSUES. HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENTS, CHURCHES, TRADE UNIONS, STUDENTS AND YOUTH AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS "TO FIGHT THESE MANOEUVRES AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE". END QUOTE SORENSON

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